

ment and the Filipinos would be promptly regarded as an insult and it must be remembered that, legally, Great Britain is proclaiming her supremacy in the Transvaal just as we assert our rights as the paramount power in the Philippines.

If we recognize, by consent to mediation, the status of the Transvaal as a "sovereign international state," we place our own Philippine situation under a glass house and must look out for stones.

The stand shown by America is a well-taken point in diplomacy.

The New York press is with one exception, the "World," in favor of Britain. Boston in the Post and Advertiser, favors the Boers, while westward to the coast the press becomes more favorable to the Afrikanders.

England decidedly sided with America in our late war, in the face of diplomatic relations then being carried on with Germany, in view of the present trouble and the present should be a time for sympathy rather than crowing over British reverses. The ultimate end of the Transvaal war is certain, while it must be remembered that all the English victories have hitherto been gained in the face of odds, resisting the Boer attempt to crush out the English forces before the reinforcements can arrive. The time must inevitably come when America and England will stand side by side against foreign aggression in the Pacific and it is to be lamented that out of forty-four of the principal papers of the States, twenty-five are strong in their unfriendly comments towards the British Nation. Blood should be thicker than water.

The Trans-Siberian railroad, the longest in the world, though two or more years from completion, is already an enormous financial and commercial success, the freight tonnage is estimated this year at 700,000 tons and, owing to the large immigration along the line and the taking up of grain growing land by settlers, this will rapidly increase.

The chief difficulty is the lack of rolling stock, both freight cars and locomotive; an order for 700 locomotives is going begging among European and American manufacturers owing to the great shops being already overcrowded. Last autumn although the freight handled exceeded half a million tons, over seventy thousand truck loads of grain and foods rotted for lack of transportation in Asiatic Russia, whilst in Europe, millions of the White Czar's subjects died of famine.

According to the British Statistical Abstract for Colonial and other possessions the United States ships to Cape Colony practically as much as all non-British nations put together. The American exports to South

Africa comprise a great deal of machinery, mining and electrical, with regular and direct steamship connections, and in eleven years have increased more than twenty times. With regard to the gold supply temporarily closed in Africa " * * * It is evident that upon the world at large the constantly increasing product of Australia, the mines of the United States, and the Klondike are contributing a sufficient incre-

ment of new gold to maintain the supply, even with the African mines forever closed."

A Letter From Manila.

A Washington man, who is an officer in the Philippines, writing to a friend, tells of the outlook there. The letter was written at Manila, and is dated September 5, 1899. It is as follows:

"This city is old—looks older than any city in Cuba. Everything is so damp that mold covers the outside walls of the houses and the old city wall. Tropical plants of all kinds are found here in great numbers. There is a beautiful drive along the bay, lined with cocoanut and palm trees. There is also a band-stand situated on the driveway, where a band plays every evening when it doesn't rain, which is not often. Crowds are to be seen on the drive when the weather is good, and by December 1, the dry season will set in, when, I am told, it is beautiful for a few months.

"There is a good deal of fighting going on now in a small way—that is, a few men and officers killed daily. Yesterday a lieutenant of the 12th Infantry was killed a few miles from Manila. Eighteen men were drowned trying to cross the river on a raft. These men I brought out, which makes 14 men killed that came over with me. Aguinaldo has 12,000 men concentrated about forty miles up the railroad track, many of whom will be killed or wounded. The rebels are well armed, and, as a rule, fight from trenches or in ambush. They are improving in their marksmanship.

"The country now is flooded. There is continuous rain, and it makes it hard to get around, but the rebels are active all the same. I think a great mistake is made in treating all who come into our lines as friends, as they only wait for a chance to kill our men and stir up strife in our rear. We have too many of them, and they should all be driven out and kept out until Aguinaldo and his forces lay down their arms. That is the opinion of all the officers with whom I have conversed with privately, though they don't and cannot make it public.

"This island is fertile and rich if properly handled, but is priest-ridden to an extent not imagined by the general public of America. Much time must be taken to improve the conditions existing here, even after peace is made, and many troops will be required to keep the people in control and teach them true civilization, as the average American understands it.

"The hospitals are full of people suffering from malarial fever and typhoid fever. How can it be otherwise when men have to be exposed to rain, and sleep in water day and night, as they do at the front? One-half of the army here is sick, and the same conditions will exist with the new troops.

"The city is under martial law, and no one is allowed out after 8 o'clock p.m., either soldiers or citizens. All places of business are closed and guards patrol the streets at every corner. Officers in uniform only are allowed out. They are challenged at every street corner and made to show why they are out. This is necessary, as there are 150,000 natives in the city, all of whom are in sympathy with the insurgents. These people don't fear death, and think if they die fighting they go straight to paradise.

"There is one thing to be criticised. That is the hospital department. It is badly managed. I saw three wounded men lay on a launch at the city front from 12 m. till 3 p.m., waiting for an ambulance to take them to a hospital. An ambulance was telephoned for several times, and it only had a mile to come. This is a fact I know personally. My heart ached for those poor men there without attention. I should have liked to have had the power to make the responsible parties suffer for their neglect. It was simply neglect pure and simple, and there is no reason why such a thing should be allowed. It was nothing more than inattention to duty.

"Five miles of the railroad is full of rebel scouts. They are in our front and between San Fernando in small bands. Five men were attacked to-day, about three miles from here, one was killed, one wounded, and one was captured which was worse than death, for they kill and mutilate captured and wounded men worse than Indians."—*Army and Navy Gazette.*



Oliver Stillman brought in from J. R. Holt's plantation at Waianae a vigorous branch of coffee. The berries were closely clustered, and the whole branch a promising harbinger of the future of the herry. The accompanying illustration was drawn from a photograph of the actual specimen.